s. First impressions (initial guesses) are often best. If an answer comes to you from out of the blue, it's probably your right brain at work. Don't fight this intuition unless you're sure it's wrong.

t. When a question is difficult to visualize, draw it.

u. Assume a possible answer. Then work backwards to see if you're right.

v. Sit in the front of class. Ambiguous questions can be cleared up much easier when you're near the instructor.

w. Stay until the very end. Questions may be clarified by the instructor as an afterthought.

- When in doubt, follow the rules for the best educated guess.

10. The Key to Perfect Papers

Never turn in homework late, sloppily done, or unedited.

Top students write well. Writing may not be your forte, but clear, concise expression is essential in college or in life. Find someone (parent, brother, sister, spouse, friend) to proofread every bit of handed-in material. Type and retype until every page is perfect. Or better yet, use a word processor for picture perfect papers.

Remember the analogy of the gourmet and the cheeseburger. A dirty plate can make a delicious hamburger unappetizing. And a messy paper can make a